The American Gothic

Grant Wood was born on a farm near Anamosa, Iowa on February 13, 1891. After his father’s death in 1901, the Wood family moved to Cedar Rapids where Grant attended school and even at an early age revealed his artistic talent. He and his friend, Marvin Cone, made scenery for plays and drawing for their high school yearbook and both were enthusiastic volunteers at the Cedar Rapids Art Association. On the night of his high school graduation in 1910, Grant Wood boarded a train for Minneapolis where he enrolled in art school. He returned home in 1911 and began teaching in a one-room country school.

In 1913, he moved to Chicago to attend the Art Institute and worked in a silversmith shop. Later, after serving in the Army as a camouflage painter, Wood once again returned to Cedar Rapids and taught art in the public schools.(Cedar Rapids Museum of Art 1) He served as artist in residence at the University of Iowa from 1935 to 1942. While abroad, Grant Wood was exposed to current trends in European painting butconcentrated on the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist styles. In this, he was severaldecades behind European painters but current with most American artists. Wood